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January 24th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Forty members present.

A paper entitled the Mexican Humming Birds, No. 1, by Rafael Montes de Oca was presented for publication.

Mr. Lea exhibited some specimens of *Unionida*, and remarked that he had often been asked as to the number of species which inhabited the United States, a question he could not answer, as he had never made a separate catalogue of such species. Recently he had been requested by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to furnish a list for publication by that Institution, which he had just finished and sent to Washington. In making the list he had used the manuscript which he had prepared for a new and enlarged edition (4) of his "*Synopsis*." From the list he had carefully eliminated the synonyms, and there remained in it the extraordinarily large number of five hundred and twenty species which have been described, inhabiting the Rivers, Lakes and Pools of the United States and Territories, and he stated that he had some 30 to 40 in his possession not yet named or described.

These 520 may be thus divided :—

Unio, . . . . .	441 species.
Margaritana, . . . . .	26 do.
Anodonta, . . . . .	53 do.

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520

New species in Mr. Lea's possession, but yet not described, 30

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550

Mr. Lea further remarked that it was very probable that at least 100 more species would be added to this list, as inhabiting within the present limits of the United States, as almost every naturalist, searching in unexplored waters, was constantly discovering new forms. In reflecting on the profusion of this kind of animal life in the United States, the naturalist is astonished at the great number of forms characteristic of the various species, and he is the more struck with the extent of it, when a comparison is made with the small number of species which inhabit the continent of Europe, there not being in the fresh waters of that quarter of the globe more perhaps than ten species, viz: seven *Uniones*, one *Margaritana*, one *Monocondylaea*, and one *Anodonta*. Mr. Lea stated that he had taken great pains to procure specimens from all parts of Europe, and he was satisfied that there were 98 synonyms made by European authors, for the single species of *Anodonta cygnea*, Draparnaud, the *Mytilus cygneus* of Linnæus, and the synonymy is nearly as profusely erroneous, in *Unio pictorum*, *Unio tumidus*, *Unio Batavus* and *Unio littoralis*.

Mr. Slack remarked, in connection with the bones presented this evening, that they were discovered some two weeks since by Mr. O. C. Herbert, in his marl pits, near Marlborough, Monmouth Co., N. J., at a depth of twenty-five feet beneath the surface. Having received information of their discovery from Mr. Hopper, of Freehold, on Monday week, Mr. S. visited the pits and procured the specimens from Mr. H. They consist of fragments of the femur and fibula of the *Mosasaurus*, and are of great interest, the long bones of this reptile having until recently been unknown.

On motion of Mr. Slack, the thanks of the Academy were ordered to be tendered to Messrs. J. M. Hopper and O. C. Herbert, of Monmouth Co., N. J., and also to Mr. Edward L. Perkins, for donations presented by them.

1860.]